

## Interpreting Incidence from Hospital Based Data Retrieval: A Comment on Incidence and Determinants of Stillbirth amongst Parturients in Two Hospitals in Southern Nigeria

Sir,

This is in reference to the article, "Incidence and determinants of stillbirth among parturients in two hospitals in Southern Nigeria" published in Journal of Basic and Clinical Reproductive Sciences (2014;3:15-21).<sup>[1]</sup>

The authors have carried out a commendable job in highlighting fetal death, an important public health issue.

However, I have a few concerns regarding this study.

The authors have mentioned in their material and methods that this was a 5 year retrospective descriptive study of all fetal mortality (2007-2011) and they reviewed the hospital records and analyzed the data retrieved.

However, a review of hospital based records is unable to provide us with the incidence. Incidence primarily being a rate needs two comparison time units, wherein a specified population is followed through and hospital data retrieved from records is unable to provide that.

Incidence actually is a measure of probability of developing a particular condition during a specified period for the individuals in the population under observation<sup>[2]</sup> and is calculated as the number of new cases occurring in a defined population during a specified period of time.<sup>[3]</sup>

This point is further clarified once we have a look at the results. The authors have provided fetal mortality rate as

0.6% (as a percentage), whereas incidence being a rate, should have been quoted just as 6.1/1000 live births and not as percentage. As per the definition of incidence given above, incidence rate refers during a given time period in a specified population at risk. The measure most often used is person years and not percentage.<sup>[2]</sup>

**Kanica Kaushal**

*Department of Community Medicine, Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India  
E-mail: kanicak8@gmail.com*

### REFERENCES

1. Omo-Aghoja LO, Onohwakpor EA, Adeyinka AT, Omene JA. Incidence and determinants of stillbirth amongst parturients in two hospitals in Southern Nigeria. J Basic Clin Reprod Sci 2014;3:15-21.
2. Wallace RB. Analysis. Epidemiology and Public Healthin Maxcy Rosenau Last Public Health and Preventive Medicine. 15<sup>th</sup> ed. Mc Graw Hill publishers; 2008. p. 19.
3. Park K. Incidencein Park's Textbook of Preventive and Social Medicine. 21<sup>st</sup> ed. Banaridas Bhanot Publishers; 2011. p. 57.

#### Access this article online

##### Quick Response Code



##### Website:

[www.jbcrrs.org](http://www.jbcrrs.org)

##### DOI:

10.4103/2278-960X.140097

# JOURNAL OF BASIC and CLINICAL REPRODUCTIVE SCIENCES

Official Publication of Society of Reproductive Biologist of Nigeria

Volume 1 / Issue 1 / Year 2012

[www.jbcrs.org](http://www.jbcrs.org)

J B C R S